

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 06389 252037Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /076 W

-----110153 252039Z /44

O R 251730Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9672

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, SF

SUBJECT: DEATH OF STEVE BIKO: NOV 24/25 INQUEST PROCEEDINGS

REF: PRETORIA 6354

1. AT NOV. 24 AFTERNOON BIKO INQUEST PROCEEDINGS, KENTRIDGE, THE FAMILY COUNSEL, CONTINUED HIS EFFORTS TO PORTRAY THE EXAMINING DOCTORS, LANG AND HERSH, AS ATTEMPTING TO COVER UP FOR THE SECURITY POLICE IN THEIR WRITTEN REPORTS AT THE TIME AND IN LATER AFFIDAVITS. THE COURT ALSO HEARD THAT A FALSE NAME WAS FILLED IN ON A LUMBAR PUNCTURE FORM SENT IN FOR TESTING WITH BIKO'S SPINAL FLUID SPECIMEN. KENTRIDGE ASSERTED THAT THIS WAS A DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO KEEP THE PATIENT'S IDENTITY HIDDEN.

2. PROFESSOR LOUBSER, CHIEF STATE PATHOLOGIST, MADE HIS FIRST APPEARANCE ON NOV. 24. LOUBSER SAID IT WAS HIS OPINION

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PAGE 02 PRETOR 06389 252037Z

THAT BRAIN DAMAGE (IN FIVE AREAS) WAS CAUSED BY A SINGLE BLOW; KENTRIDGE OFFERED MEDICAL EVIDENCE AND OPINION THAT THE BRAIN DAMAGE WAS PROBABLY THE RESULT OF MULTIPLE BLOWS. LOUBSER HIMSELF SUGGESTED THE THEORY THAT THE INJURY COULD HAVE BEEN SELF INFLICTED BY BANGING THE HEAD AGAINST A WALL. LOUBSER, HOWEVER, AGREED THAT BIKO'S BRAIN INJURY MUST HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED BY A PERIOD OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS.

3. WHEN LOUBSER AGAIN TOOK THE STAND ON THE MORNING OF NOV. 25, KENTRIDGE ONCE MORE FOCUSED ON THE QUESTION WHETHER THE DAMAGE RESULTED FROM A SINGLE OR REPEATED BLOWS. VANROOYEN, COUNSEL FOR THE POLICE, IN HIS QUESTIONING OF LOUBSER SOUGHT TO SHOW THAT BIKO COULD HAVE INFLECTED THE INJURY ON HIS HEAD WHILE MANACLED ON THE FLOOR THE NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 8. LOUBSER AGREED THIS WAS POSSIBLE. ON CROSS EXAMINATION, LOUBSER SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW OF ANY HISTORY OF A SELF-INFLECTED WOUND OF THIS NATURE, BUT STILL HE THOUGHT IT A POSSIBILITY EVEN GIVEN BIKO'S RESTRAINED CONDITION.

4. INQUEST IS EXPECTED TO LAST THROUGHOUT THE WEEK OF NOV. 28.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: DEATHS, COURT PROCEEDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 450958
Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, SF, (BIKO, STEVE)
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Type: TE
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